

Centennial connection

Winter 2007

Your **link** to the city of Centennial

Roads, economic development & Southglenn project top 2007 budget

City Council approved a \$67.5 million budget in early December after several months of in-depth work sessions and deliberations. Southglenn redevelopment impacts were a major focus of Council's priorities, along with major road projects and economic development.

An important goal of the 2007 budget is full funding for current City services despite a projected decrease in sales tax revenues while the Southglenn Mall redevelopment project is underway.

This will be eased by funds from a TABOR exemption, approved by voters in November.

TABOR passes; adds to City services

Centennial residents overwhelmingly approved a TABOR exemption on the November ballot allowing the City to keep revenues from fees and fines above the TABOR-imposed cap. The vote was 73 percent in favor of the exemption, and 23 percent against. These TABOR revenues are earmarked for road repair, public safety and open space; the exemption will sunset in 2013. The dollar amounts will vary each year. For 2007, it will add approximately \$2 million to the City's budget.

Some highlights of the 2007 budget:

❖ *An additional \$3.8 million for several planned major road projects, to cover the rising costs of concrete and asphalt, and an additional \$1 million reserve set aside for future projects.*

❖ *Initial funding of \$170,000 to implement a neighborhood traffic calming policy under Council consideration.*

❖ *Use of special reserves set aside to absorb Southglenn Mall redevelopment-related costs and revenue losses. The redeveloped Streets at SouthGlenn is scheduled to open late in 2008.*

❖ *Creation of an economic development staff position, in order to better pursue economic development opportunities.*

❖ *Funding for a major rewrite of the City's land use code.*

❖ *Funding to implement a stronger animal control ordinance under consideration by Council.*

Centennial faces a number of financial issues to be managed carefully in 2007 including a continuing need to improve its modest sales tax base through well-planned retail development; the rising cost of materials for road repairs; and the possibility of state or federal policies impacting municipal telecom franchise revenues.

In addition, two of Centennial's largest

contracts for municipal services will expire at the end of 2007 and will require renegotiation or re-bidding.

One is the City's contract with URS Corporation, which runs the City's Land Use Service Department. This department conducts Centennial's planning and development services and building department activities.

The other contract is with Arapahoe County, which provides Centennial with its Public Works Department, animal control services, mapping services, and the Sheriff's law enforcement services.

The 2007 budget may be read on the City's website, www.centennialcolorado.com, or at the City offices.

Centennial: Again safest city

For the second year in a row, Centennial has ranked as the safest city in Colorado. Annual rankings by publisher Morgan Quitno of Lawrence, Kansas showed Centennial to be the safest locality in Colorado. Centennial ranked 52nd out of 371 cities across the nation. Two other Colorado cities ranked in the top 100: Boulder at 63 and Arvada at 72.

Light rail comes to Centennial

The opening of the new Southeast Light Rail line and accompanying improvements in related services represent nothing less than a sea change in transit opportunities for Centennial residents. *(See related stories on pages six and seven.)*

The new service includes light rail stations along I-25 from the Broadway/I-25 interchange south to Lincoln Avenue and a spur along I-225 to Parker Road. There are several light rail stations in or near Centennial.

The Arapahoe at Village Center station in Greenwood Village is located a few blocks north of Arapahoe Road off Yosemite. This is also a major hub for bus routes. It has 800 free parking spaces and about another 1,000 pay parking spaces. A pedestrian bridge over I-25 connects the parking and bus facilities to the light rail platform.



Cutting the ribbon at the Dry Creek Station on opening day were (left to right) Arapahoe County Commissioner Susan Beckman, Centennial City Council Members Ron Weidmann, Todd Miller, Sue Bosier and Rebecca McClellan, RTD Board Member Christopher Martinez, Centennial Mayor Randy Pye, RTD Board Member Barbara Brohl and Arapahoe County Commissioner Bernie Zimmer.

The Dry Creek station is just south of Dry Creek Road in Centennial. There are 235 parking spaces on the top floor of an adjacent parking garage, which must be accessed from Dry Creek Road eastbound (a U-turn is allowed at Chester for westbounders).

A pedestrian bridge, to be completed by spring, will allow access to the platform from business buildings on the east side of I-25.

The County Line station, just south of County Line Road in Lone Tree, has about 390 parking spaces. A pedestrian bridge over I-25 connects the west side platform with east side parking. Eventually there will be a west-side exit and staircase down to the Park Meadows mall.



The City of Centennial Banner flies from the Dry Creek Station on opening day.

The County Line station lies just outside the intermediate fare zone, so the fare from there to downtown is higher than the fare from the Dry Creek or Arapahoe stations.

RTD has established several fare zones, so riders will need to be mindful of the distance they are traveling and check whether their ride crosses one or more fare zones when purchasing tickets.



TOP: RTD Executive Director Cal Marsella (right) celebrates the Dry Creek opening party with (left to right) Centennial Mayor Randy Pye, Council Member Todd Miller, Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, South Metro Denver Chamber Executive Director John Brackney, Arapahoe Commissioner Susan Beckman and South Metro Denver Chamber Economic Development Director Bart Sayyah.

BOTTOM: 9NEWS Weatherman Nick Carter (second from left) did his Saturday morning broadcast live from the Dry Creek station. Here he announces a donation to 9Cares Colorado Shares from the sale and auction of soup bowls. Presenting the check are Mayor Randy Pye and County Commissioner Susan Beckman. 9Cares Colorado Shares Coordinator Randy Barber (right) accepts the check.

Centennial celebrates light rail



FROM TOP: Miles the Bronco Mascot signed autographs and goofed around with kids and adults. SECOND: Rockies Mascot Dinger poses with Arapahoe Sheriff's deputies. THIRD: A young art lover looks at "Fool's Gold" at Dry Creek station. The art depicts the importance of water to Colorado and the importance of mining to the state's early economy. The interactive art is by well-known artist John McEnroe. BOTTOM: The Centennial Rotary Club sold lots of hotdogs, chips and soft drinks.

After five years of road construction and more years of backups and aggravation on I-25, communities along the southeast corridor celebrated the completion of TREX and the opening of the Southeast Light Rail line with parties at most of the new light rail stations.

The official opening of the light rail line was on November 17 with local elected officials cutting ribbons at each station. The community parties took place the following day.

The community event at the Dry Creek station was a huge "tailgate" party sponsored by the City of Centennial and Arapahoe County, in partnership with the South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce.



The balloon man places his latest creation on the head of an admirer. There were many activities for kids at the opening party.

The crowd was estimated at 10,000 including lots of children and families. Mascots from the Broncos, Nuggets, Rockies and Mammoth worked the crowd.

Eleven restaurants brought delicious soups and offered tastes to attendees.



A chef from the Ship Rock Grill at Red Rocks hands out a sample of gourmet soup to visitors.

There were activities for children and entertainment for the whole family.

In addition, the Rotary Club of Centennial sold hot dogs and the Wilderness Experience gave away hot chocolate and coffee.

A unique part of the celebration was the fundraising for 9Cares Colorado Shares for area food banks. HotPots pottery studio in Littleton offered bowls to paint in the preceding weeks for \$20 with proceeds going to 9Cares Colorado Shares.

About 200 people took advantage of the offer and many brought their hand-painted bowls to the party for a bowl of soup. Arapahoe County also sold already-painted bowls at the event for \$10 each.

A silent auction raised hundreds of dollars with autographed bowls from the Broncos, Nuggets, Mammoth, 9NEWS and KYGO.

Additional sponsors included the Southeast Business Partnership, TownePlace Suites, Vallagio at Inverness, Inverness Metropolitan Improvement District, Centennial Airport, 360 Media, Amberg Entertainment and Adventures in Dance.

Stormwater authority to tackle flooding problems



Flooding problems will soon be addressed with the establishment of the new Stormwater Authority.

A newly-formed stormwater authority will take over and tackle longstanding and historically underfunded local flooding problems and help the area comply with new federal requirements on runoff water quality.

The Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA) was approved last fall by the City of Centennial, Arapahoe County, the Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority (ACWWA), the East Cherry Creek Valley Water and Sanitation District, and the Inverness Water and Sanitation District after a

multi-year planning effort. The authority was recommended in 2002 by a citizen stormwater advisory committee.

Facing over \$70 million in unmet drainage improvement and repair needs, the authority board has been busy organizing its operations and prioritizing the most pressing projects.

These projects and routine maintenance will be funded through the collection of a fee on all developed properties within the new authority boundaries.

The fee will be based upon the amount of impermeable area on the property. Impermeable surfaces prevent stormwater from being absorbed into the ground and consist of rooftops, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots and other hard structures.

The average amount of impermeable surface for Centennial single-family

residential properties is around 3,300 square feet, which would result in an average fee of approximately \$6.50 per month. The stormwater fee will appear on the annual property tax notice that's in the mail now and be paid along with the property tax. ACWWA customers will pay their 2006 stormwater fee to ACWWA and a 2007 fee to SEMSWA.

A map of the authority boundaries, a list of the first group of proposed projects and additional information can be found on the SEMSWA website, www.semswa.org, or by calling 303-858-8844.

Calling all neighborhoods: Neighborhood map project

As a new city, Centennial lacks a number of the kinds of databases and statistics that most established cities take for granted. For instance, how many neighborhoods exist in Centennial? What are their names and boundaries? How many have mandatory homeowners associations? Voluntary civic associations? How many take responsibility for common property areas?

The City has launched a neighborhood mapping project to comprehensively collect this information. Once complete, the map will be placed on the city website for public access. And, with its informational database, the map will be available for use by neighborhoods.

Here's where you come in. The City needs your help completing the map and database. Help us fill in the informational "holes." We are missing some neighborhood names, and we know there are some small neighborhoods out there that our map shows inaccurately as being part of an adjacent neighborhood.

Check out the draft neighborhood map and database on the City website and see what errors and omissions you can help us correct. We've hidden neighborhood contact information like phone numbers and email addresses to help protect privacy on the internet, but we will be happy to make all database information available upon request.

Here's the link: <http://www.centennialcolorado.com/neighborhoods/index.asp>. Please phone or email your information to Nancy Reubert, nreubert@centennialcolorado.com, 303-754-3327.

2007 City meeting schedule

City Council regular meeting:

1st and 3rd Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Council Chamber.

Study session: 1st three Mondays of the month, 6 p.m., Council Chamber.

Holidays that fall on Mondays result in rescheduling that week's Council meeting to Wednesday evening of the same week.

Planning & Zoning Commission:

2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., Council Chamber.

Board of Adjustment: 3rd

Thursday of the month (as needed), 1 p.m., Council Chamber. This Board considers variances of zoning regulations.

Board of Review: Quarterly, 3rd

Thursday of the month (as needed), 4 - 6:30 p.m., Council Chamber. This Board hears appeals on the Uniform Building Code within the City.

Liquor Licensing Authority:

1st and 3rd Thursday of the month (as needed), 7 p.m., Council Chamber.

Youth Commission: 2nd and

4th Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., Council Chamber.

Land Use Committee: 1st Tuesday

of the month, 6 p.m., Suite 250 Conference Room.

City of Centennial information



Building Permits & Inspections

303-754-3321
Inspection Hotline: 303-708-1430

Animal Control

720-874-6750

Mosquito Control

720-874-6751

Citizen Liaison

Gail Carissimi • 303-754-3323
gcarissimi@centennialcolorado.com

Code Enforcement

303-754-3400
codematters@centennialcolorado.com

Municipal Court

303-754-3380
courtclerk@centennialcolorado.com

Public Works

Maintenance requests: 720-874-ROAD
Main: 720-874-6500

Zoning

Tareq Wafaie • 303-754-3371
tareq_wafaie@urscorp.com

Contractor Licensing

Michelle Godfrey • 303-754-3408
mgodfrey@centennialcolorado.com

Contracts/Purchasing

Jeff Martin • 303-754-3348
jmartin@centennialcolorado.com

Finance/Accounts Payable

303-754-3445

Human Resources/Administration

Darla Sergeant • 303-754-3337
dsergeant@centennialcolorado.com

Land Use Department

Vivian Ferriola • 303-754-3345
vivian_ferriola@urscorp.com

Media & Community Relations

Nancy Reubert • 303-754-3327
nreubert@centennialcolorado.com

City Manager's Office

303-754-3341

Liquor Licensing

Marie White • 303-754-3324
mwhite@centennialcolorado.com

Your elected officials

Randy Pye, Mayor

303-754-3350; rpye@centennialcolorado.com

Vorry Moon, Council, Ward I

303-754-3354; vmoon@centennialcolorado.com

Rick Dindinger, Council, Ward I

303-754-3352; rdindinger@centennialcolorado.com

Bart Miller, Council, Ward II

303-754-3359; bmiller@centennialcolorado.com

Sue Bosier, Council, Ward II

303-754-3404; sbosier@centennialcolorado.com

Andrea Suhaka, Council, Ward III

303-770-0058; asuhaka@centennialcolorado.com

Rebecca McClellan, Council, Ward III

303-754-3405; rmcclellan@centennialcolorado.com

Todd Miller, Council, Ward IV

303-754-3361; tmiller@centennialcolorado.com

Ron Weidmann, Council, Ward IV

303-754-3343; rweidmann@centennialcolorado.com

Treasurer

currently vacant

Goldie Fishbein, City Clerk

303-754-3406; gfishbein@centennialcolorado.com

City Offices

12503 E. Euclid Dr., Suite 200
Centennial, CO 80111
Open: M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (*excluding holidays*)

General City Information

Phone: 303-734-4567
Email: info@centennialcolorado.com
www.centennialcolorado.com

Sheriff's Office

To report a crime: 303-795-4711
Main: 720-874-3600

Emergencies: 911

Centennial Connection is published by the City of Centennial. It is also available in PDF format on the City Web site, www.centennialcolorado.com.

Comments and questions:
Nancy Reubert, 303-754-3327

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Want a bus to show up at your door? No problem!



Call-n-Ride is a new service for our area. The buses are actually 16-passenger vans. Rather than running along a traditional fixed route, they have a fixed territory. The vans can go anywhere you want within that territory. With the advent

of light rail service, there are now seven call-n-Ride territories in and around the southeast I-25 corridor.

Two of these call-n-Rides, the Orchard call-n-Ride and the Dry Creek call-n-Ride, cover an area of western Centennial between I-25 and Holly Street, from above Orchard Road on the north down to County Line Road on the south. The Dry Creek service operates west to Quebec all day, and as far as Holly only during non-rush hours. Four other call-n-Rides serve the tech center/Inverness area east of I-25 and the seventh call-n-Ride, in operation since early 2006, serves Lone Tree. All of the call-n-Rides connect with nearby light rail stations.

There's no waiting at a bus stop. You pick up the phone, call the van driver in your call-n-Ride territory, and request your planned trip. Rides are scheduled on a first-called first-served basis. The

van picks you up at the agreed-upon time and takes you where you want to go: the light rail station, the grocery store, or perhaps a doctor's appointment or canasta party within the van's territory. If your destination is in an adjacent territory, the driver will arrange to deliver you to the van in the next territory.

These are shared rides, so the driver will probably also pick up or drop off other riders along the way. Fares are the same as riding a fixed route bus or light rail train. If you are headed for the light rail or a bus stop, don't forget to get a free transfer ticket from the van driver.

"These new door-to-door services mark a dramatic opportunity for residents of the service territories to get out and go without concern for driving or parking, and for much less than the cost of a taxicab," said Tex Elam, Centennial's volunteer director of community mobility services. "It's hard to imagine a more useful service. But it's an experiment by RTD, and if we don't use it we will lose it. If we embrace it and use it, that will help demonstrate to RTD that these services should be extended to other parts of our City in the future." Mr. Elam also says negotiations with RTD for additional public transit improvements in Centennial are ongoing.

Orchard call-n-Ride: 303-944-8332

Dry Creek call-n-Ride: 303-591-8420

Arapahoe call-n-Ride: 303-944-6655

North Inverness call-n-Ride: 303-994-9885

For more information and call-n-Ride maps, go to www.southeastlightrail.com, or call RTD at 303-299-6000.

Policy change for egress window replacement

An egress window in a home is a window with an opening large enough for the resident to escape through in a fire or other emergency. Building codes require all bedrooms to have an egress window. A problem that has vexed the owners of older homes in Centennial is that the code for egress windows has evolved over the years. This results

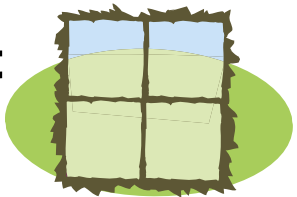
in older homes not complying with the larger window size requirement in current building codes.

Older homes in Centennial are "grandfathered" under the code as long as the egress windows are not replaced. However, homeowners wishing to replace older windows with

more energy efficient ones have found that meeting the building code can cause considerable expense if concrete, brick or framing needs to be cut in order to increase the size of the window opening.

Centennial's building department has recently adopted a policy that essentially extends the "grandfathering" provision even when egress windows are replaced. The exception is replacement basement egress windows, which are still subject to code requirements.

The new policy still requires residents replacing egress windows to obtain a building permit and to meet safety glazing and natural light requirements.



Citizens are invited to drop by the City offices to chat with Mayor Randy Pye between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month. Refreshments are served. The City offices are located at 12503 East Euclid Drive, Suite 200. Currently scheduled: **January 18, February 1 & 15, March 1 & 15 and April 5 & 19.**

Residents are always welcome to phone Mayor Pye at his City voice mail box, 303-754-3350, and he will return the call.

Bus routes see some changes

The backbone of Centennial's bus service continues to be Route 66, which operates east and west along Arapahoe Road.

In operation now for three and a half years, the route has become so successful that RTD ranks it as second busiest suburban bus route in the Denver metro area. It will now connect with the Arapahoe light rail station, and with additional new bus routes near the Arapahoe/Parker intersection.

The other cross-town bus, Route 77, continues to operate during rush hours along Dry Creek Road, now making stops at the Arapahoe station and Dry Creek station, and at the Mineral station on the Southwest light rail line.

All of the bus routes that have serviced the Arapahoe park-n-Ride, now renamed Arapahoe at Village Center, will continue to do so except for the express "X" routes and "The Link" bus. These have been discontinued with the start of light rail service.

Additionally, several call-n-Ride vans will operate near the I-25 corridor (*see call-n-Ride story on page six*).

Route 437, now renumbered 465, still provides service along the west side of I-25, stopping at both the Arapahoe and Dry Creek light rail stations. This bus runs south to Park Meadows and beyond.

At press time, RTD was adjusting some bus routes and schedules to serve the southeast metro area more effectively. The latest information can be found at www.southeastlighttrail.com or call the RTD information line at 303-299-6000.

Did you know...

Did you know it's illegal for individuals under the age of 18 to possess tobacco in Centennial? It has long been illegal in Colorado for minors to *purchase* tobacco products, but state law does not prohibit minors from *possessing* it.

City Council approved an ordinance in September 2006 prohibiting minors from possessing tobacco, and establishing fines. The fine for the first offense is \$75, and from \$100 to \$300 for subsequent offenses. Teens caught with tobacco products can be issued a ticket to appear in Centennial Municipal Court accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The tobacco possession ordinance proposal was brought to Council by the Centennial Youth Commission. Composed of 11 Centennial teens appointed by City Council, the Youth Commission researched and debated the issue for many weeks.

"The Youth Commission felt that tobacco use among minors had for too long been a major issue impacting the welfare of the youth, a problem too often ignored," said Justin Lambert, Centennial Youth Commission chair. "We decided to confront the problem with a tobacco possession ban ordinance. It'll be worth all of the effort even if just one life is saved."

Southglenn project in "quiet" phase

If you've driven by the Southglenn Mall redevelopment site lately, you won't have seen much going on. But that doesn't mean things aren't happening. Demolition is largely completed, with the exception of the Macy's home store, the old Michael's building and an old restaurant building.

The developer's sales and leasing center opened to the public in October with opening day festivities. The center is built inside to look like the loft residences that will be part of the new Streets at SouthGlenn. According to Alberta Development Partners, sales activity with regard to the residences has been brisk.

Much of the current work going on is focused on engineering and utility planning, and working through details with prospective retail tenants.

The City of Centennial has been concentrating its efforts recently on planning the engineering of drainage structures that will carry runoff from the site, as well as the redesign of the Arapahoe/University intersection. The intersection project has been on the drawing board for several years and is now coincidentally happening during the Southglenn redevelopment project.

The City's goal is to have the intersection completed in time for the Streets at SouthGlenn opening in 2008. The intersection will be widened through additional turn lanes. The new turn lanes will facilitate the movement of through traffic in that busy intersection.

Ward Meetings

Ward III

Wednesday, February 7, 7 p.m., City Offices

Ward IV

Wednesday, January 24, 7 p.m., Smoky Hill Library

Wednesday, April 18, 7 p.m., Smoky Hill Library



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Alternatives to Arapahoe Road increase

Do you commute through the central portion of Arapahoe Road from I-25 to Parker Road? Looking for some alternatives? Three different road projects in the last couple of years, including one just finished, can help you negotiate this heavily traveled corridor.

The road construction you've been seeing on the north side of Arapahoe at Havana is now virtually complete, with the exception of some roadside finishing work. The project included construction of the "missing piece" of Peakview (one block north of Arapahoe) just east of Havana. This connection now allows unobstructed travel on Peakview from Boston all the way to Peoria.

If you haven't used the Easter extension yet, it's time to give it a try. East Easter Avenue, several blocks south of Arapahoe Road, was finished in 2005 and connected Havana to Peoria Street and the Broncos Parkway. In 2004, the Broncos Bridge was completed, connecting Broncos Parkway to Parker Road.

The result of these improvements now allows commuters to exit I-25 at Dry Creek and travel east to Parker Road without using Arapahoe Road at all.

Graffiti: Who ya gonna call?

Graffiti must be removed immediately to discourage further incidents. That's according to Arapahoe County Sheriff Grayson Robinson. "Graffiti has a serious cumulative effect," says Sheriff Robinson. "It can be responsible for declines in property value and the perception of blight and it heightens fear of gang activity."

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office strives to remove graffiti within 48 hours after receiving a report. Minimum security inmates from the county jail are part of a team that cleans graffiti from public property every day. Graffiti on private property is the responsibility of the property owner.

If you see graffiti on public property or need advice on how to remove graffiti, call the Arapahoe County Sheriff's graffiti hotline at 303-795-4711.